

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HELSIN 02579 01 OF 02 050835Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DHA-05
/059 W
-----086654 050906Z /11

P R 041459Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2039
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 2579

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH REACTION TO US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO

REF: HELSINKI 2551 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: WHILE NO FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE US DECISION TO LEAVE ILO HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING, THE GENERAL REACTION BY FINNS HAS BEEN REGRET AT OUR LEAVING MINGLED WITH HOPE THAT WE WILL RETURN. ALTHOUGH THERE IS LITTLE AGREEMENT WITH US ARGUMENTS, THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE US DECISION AND, ESPECIALLY ON THE PART OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT AND LABOR MOVEMENT, DETERMINATION THAT THE ILO PERSEVERE WITHOUT US. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMENTS BY FINNISH GOVERNMENT AND LABOR MARKET
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HELSIN 02579 01 OF 02 050835Z

OFFICIALS ON THE US DECISION TO LEAVE THE ILO HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET AND CONCERN ABOUT THE ILO FUTURE, SIMILAR TO ALTHOUGH NOT AS DRAMATIC AS THE EDITORIAL VIEWS REPORTED REFTEL, WITH NO SUGGESTION THAT THE DECISION CAME AS A SURPRISE OR SHOCK. EMBASSY ASCRIBES THIS RELATIVELY CALM REACTION TO OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FINNS OVER PAST

MONTHS ON THE ILO AND TO THE FACT THAT SECRETARY OF LABOR MARSHALL'S VISIT TO FINLAND OCTOBER 22-25 GAVE THE FINNS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT WITH ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL US OFFICIALS INVOLVED.

3. THE FINNISH RESPONSE TO THE US CASE FOR WITHDRAWAL WAS LAID OUT THOROUGHLY TO SECRETARY MARSHALL. SECRETARY MARSHALL WAS TOLD THAT THE FINNS UNDERSTAND THE US CONSIDERATIONS IN WITHDRAWING BUT DO NOT AGREE WITH THE CONCLUSION TO WITHDRAW. THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE US DECISION AND HOPE THAT THE US WILL RECONSIDER IN VIEW OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE ILO TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD.

4. GOVERNMENT REACTION FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL CONSISTED OF A BRIEF COMMENT TO THE PRESS BY SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH MINISTER TYOLAJARVI, WHO HAS ILO RESPONSIBILITY. SHE SAID SHE HOPED THAT THE US ABSENCE FROM THE ILO WOULD BE TEMPORARY, BUT SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION AND SAID SHE HOPED THIS WOULD CONTINUE IN SPITE OF THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES POSED BY THE US WITHDRAWAL. MINISTER OF LABOR AALTO, WHO IS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 HELSIN 02579 01 OF 02 050835Z

OBSERVED THAT THE US WITHDRAWAL WOULD ONLY STIMULATE THE ILO. EMBASSY NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER KANSAN UUTiset IN ITS EDITORIAL REPORTED REFTel HOPES THAT THE US WILL RETURN.

5. GIST IF TRADE UNION REACTION REPORTED IN THE PRESS WAS THAT THE ILO WORKER COMPONENT WILL BE ABLE TO MANAGE WITHOUT THE US. SAK INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY ERICH, WHO IS THE FINNISH WORKER DELEGATE, SAID THAT ILO PRINCIPLES MUST BE REALIZED EVEN UNDER THE NEW CONDITIONS: "THE SITUATION IS DIFFICULT BUT NOT CATASTROPHIC."

6. STK EMPLOYEE FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER KOSKIMIES TOLD THE PRESS IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT A BREAKDOWN OCCURRED OVER "DETAILS" WHILE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE MAJOR ILO ISSUES. KOSKIMIES SPECULATED THAT THE REMAINING MEMBERS WOULD NOT BE ASKED TO ASSUME THE US SHARE OF THE ILO FUNDING BUT THAT THE BUDGET WOULD BE REDUCED. GOVERNMENT ILO DELEGATE AARNE VALIKANGAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, TOLD THE PRESS THAT

WITH THE REDUCTION OF REVENUES BY ONE-QUARTER MIGHT MEAN
THAT THE ECONOMIC LOAD OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS WOULD HAVE
TO BE RECALCULATED IMPLYING THAT EXPENDITURES WOULD NOT BE REDUCED
AS DRASTICALLY, AND HE NOTED THAT THE FINNISH CONTRIBUTION IS
CURRENTLY ONLY .41 PERCENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HELSIN 02579 02 OF 02 050902Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DHA-05
/059 W

-----087240 050906Z /23

P R 041459Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2040
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 HELSINKI 2579

7. EMBASSY NOVEMBER 1 CONTACTED LABOR, EMPLOYER, AND GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO ALERT THEM TO THE WITHDRAWAL
ANNOUNCEMENT. FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT WE WERE
APPROACHED BY VALIKANGAS, WHO TOLD THE LABOR ATTACHE
NOVEMBER 3 THAT THE NORDICS WERE ALREADY CONSULTING
IN GENEVA ON THEIR NEXT MOVE, TO BE DECIDED AT
THE REGULAR NORDIC ILO GROUP MEETING ON NOVEMBER
14. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN
US ACTIVITY IN THE OECD, TUAC, AND BIAC, AND
INDICATED THAT THE NORDICS MAY APPROACH THE USG TO
DETERMINE OUR INTENTIONS IN THIS CONNECTION. FINNS
HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT SECRETARY
MARSHALL WILL CHAIR THE OECD YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT MEETING
IN DECEMBER.

8. COMMENT: THE FINNS DO NOT AGREE WITH THE US DECISION TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HELSIN 02579 02 OF 02 050902Z

LEAVE THE ILO. NOW THAT THE US IS LEAVING, HOWEVER, MOST FINNS REALISTICALLY ACCEPT THE DECISION AND UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME WHO CYNICALLY ACCUSE THE US LABOR MOVEMENT OF FORCING THE USG INTO A COLD WAR STANCE AND OTHERS WHO SIMPLISTICALLY EXPLAIN THE DECISION AS PART OF AN "OBSESSION" WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. WE BELIEVE NEVERTHELESS THAT THE TWO YEARS SINCE THE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL WAS GIVEN, AND PARTICULARLY THE PERIOD SINCE THE FINAL DAYS OF THE JUNE ILC, HAVE BEEN A VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS FOR THE FINNS, WHO ARE NOW FULLY AWARE OF THE CHOICES AVAILABLE TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE ILO. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, THE FINNS HAVE NOT BEEN AND PROBABLY ARE NOT NOW PREPARED TO LOBBY ACTIVELY ON BEHALF OF US POSITIONS. WHAT THEY WILL DO IS WAIT AND SEE, HOPING THAT THE US RETURNS TO THE ILO OR AT LEAST DOES NOT WITHDRAW FROM ACTIVITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR FIELD.
RIDGWAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977HELSIN02579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770408-0517
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771196/aaaadebc.tel
Line Count: 195
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f7242e22-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 HELSINKI 2551
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 716610
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINNISH REACTION TO US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO
TAGS: ELAB, FI, US, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f7242e22-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009